

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-20 SSO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01

NEA-10 /058 W

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O 291535Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5473

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2744

FOR STOESSEL FROM SHERER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, DR. HENRY A.)PFOR, CZ, US

SUBJ: EUROPEAN CHIEF OF MISSION MEETING- U.S.-

CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS

REF: STATE 231853

1. I BELIEVE THE OCTOBER 9 ASSESSMENT OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS (PRAGUE 2406) REMAINS VALID BUT SOME COMMENTS MIGHT NOW BE ADDED.

2. I APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GREAT EFFORT ON BEHALF OF CARVING OUT NEW POSITION ON PENDING CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS. WE MUST RECKON, HOWEVER, WITH FACT THAT CZECHS REGARD SETTLEMENT OF THIS OLD ISSUE AS SYMBOLIC OF OUR INTENTION TO GIVE NEW CONTENT TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE EMBASSY HAS INDICATED THE ELEMENTS FOR A COMPROMISE AGREEMENT, WHICH INTER ALIA SHOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE HELP TO OUR COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES HERE EVEN WHILE MFN FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA REMAINS IN ABEYANCE. CONVERSELY, IF WE DO NOT SETTLE THE CLAIMS QUESTION (AND, EVENTUALLY, GRANT MFN) THE CZECHS MAY WELL DECIDE TO BEEF UP THEIR TRADE WITH WEST EUROPE AND JAPAN INSTEAD OF WITH US. NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT IS NOT ONLY TRADE WHICH MAY BE PUT IN QUESTION. THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT CZECHS REMAIN PREPARED TO CONCLUDE USEFUL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT IN NEAR FUTURE WITHOUT REGARD FOR

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RESOLUTION OF CURRENT IMPASSE ON CLAIMS. BUT IF IT IS

NOT RESOLVED, WE MAY HAVE AN EXCHANGES AGREEMENT WITH
LITTLE OF THE ACTIVITIES IT PROMISES, AND GENERAL LOSS OF
THE DYNAMICS FOR IMPROVEMENT WHICH NOW EXIST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PRAGUE02744
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973115/aaaaadjv.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 231853
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EUROPEAN CHIEF OF MISSION MEETING- U.S- CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, CZ, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005